DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 444 683 PS 027 486

TITLE	Confronting the Crisis: Childcare in America. A Lifetime Original Documentary. [Videotape].
PUB DATE	1999-00-00
NOTE	0p.; Produced by the Lifetime TV Project, "Caring for Kids: Our Lifetime Commitment."
AVAILABLE FROM	Video Marketing Enterprises, P.O. Box 1588, Norcross, GA 30091 ($14.95). Tel: 888-282-8433 (Toll Free). Lifetime Television, 309 West 49th Street, New York, NY 10019; Tel: 800-522-0925 (Toll Free); Web site: www.lifetimetv.com.
PUB TYPE	Non-Print Media (100)
EDRS PRICE	Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	Adolescents; After School Programs; Change Strategies; Comparative Analysis; *Day Care; Elementary Education; *Employed Parents; Family Needs; Family Work Relationship; Government Role; Infants; Preschool Education; Prevention; *Public Policy; School Age Day Care; School Community Relationship; Videotape Recordings; Young Children
IDENTIFIERS	Availability (Programs and Services); Before School Programs; *Child Care Costs; *Child Care Needs; Europe; Family Leave; Juvenile Crime; United States

ABSTRACT

Noting that the United States is the only developed Western nation with no national child care, this videotape examines the need for high quality, affordable child care available to all families. Drawing on personal narratives of working parents overwhelmed with balancing work/family and child care needs/costs, the 50-minute video examines the emotional and financial strain of even less than quality care; explores how welfare reform policy neglected child care; compares how France addresses the issue of child care and family leave to policy in the United States; discusses how child care on-site at work sites provides a needed service but is still expensive for parents; highlights a public school district providing before- and after-school care; and calls for investing in early childhood care and before- and after-school programs, particularly for adolescents, as a way to reduce juvenile crime. The video notes the numerous child care bills that have stalled in Congress for political reasons and briefly notes steps for convincing the government to make child care a priority. (HTH)

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